REMARKS

In the Official Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1, 3 and 4, but rejected claim 2 on prior art grounds. By the present Amendment, claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer thereby rendering the rejection of this claim moot.

Since all matters raised in the Official Action have been fully met, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

As a final matter, it is noted that while the previous Action indicated that the acknowledged citation form from the Information Disclosure Statement filed with the present application on May 23, 2001, was enclosed, applicants' copy of the Action apparently did not include it. Therefore, applicants further respectfully request a copy of the acknowledged form with the next Official Action.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any aspect of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

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Date: October 1, 2003